THE AVENGERS
MARVEL
POP ART PRODUCTIONS
3.1
JAN
NO MORE THE HEROES!

AND THERE CAME A DAY UNLIKE ANY OTHER, WHEN EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES DECIDED TO TAKE SOME TIME OFF AND WERE REPLACED WITH A GROUP OF UNTESTED, UNTRIED NEW RECRUITS: HAWKEYE, QUICKSILVER AND SCARLET WITCH. CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS TASKED WITH TURNING THE MEMBERS OF THIS RAGTAG TEAM INTO AVENGERS--A TASK MADE EASIER BY THE DISCOVERY OF CRESSIDA, A WOMAN WITH THE ABILITY TO ENHANCE THE TEAM'S POWERS.

BUT THAT STORY, AND CRESSIDA'S DARK SECRET, WERE NEVER REVEALED...UNTIL NOW.

THE AVENGERS

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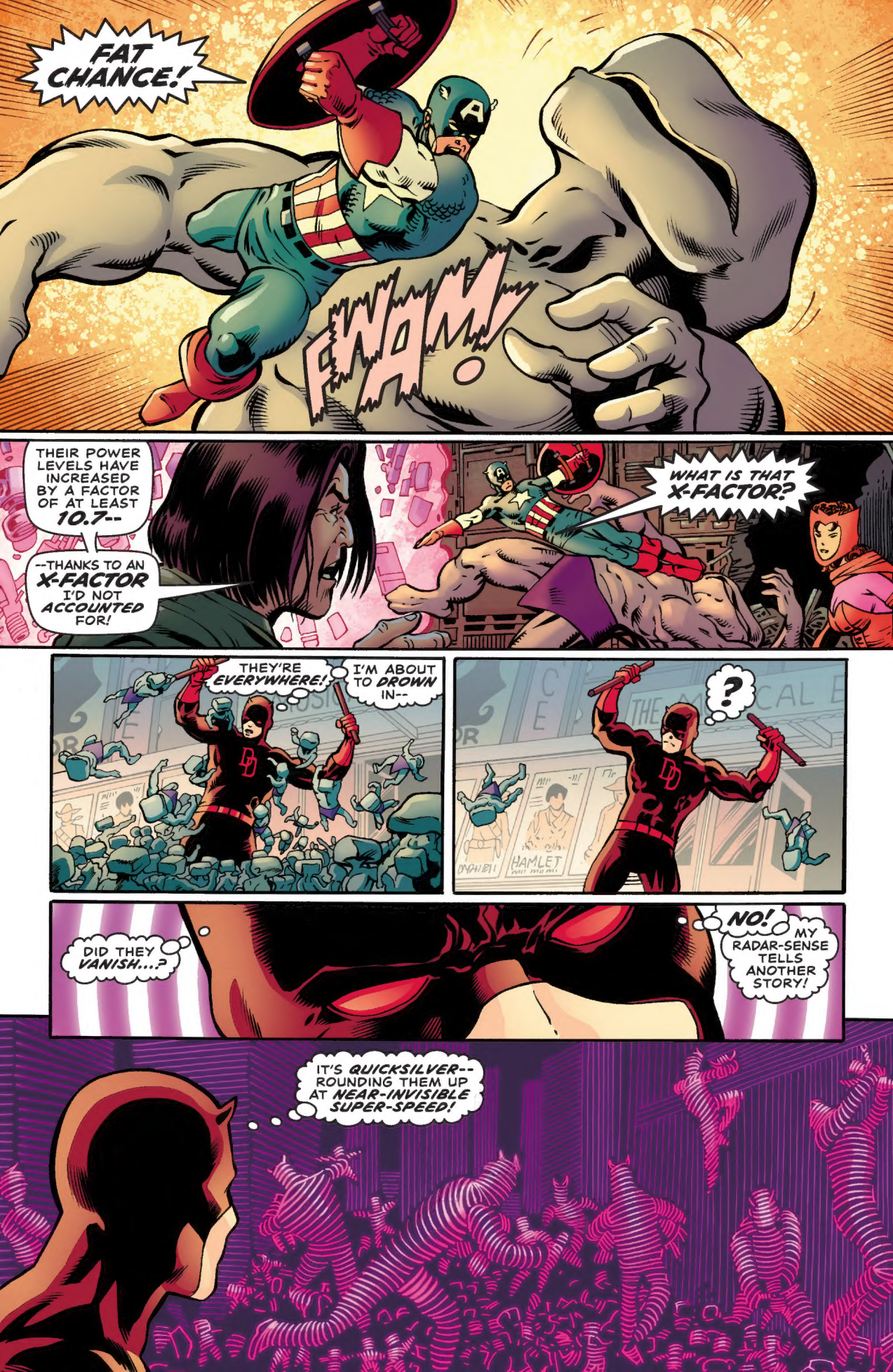
...TONIGHT, OUR SPOTLIGHT FALLS ON CAPTAIN AMERICA, HAWKEYE, QUICKSILVER AND THE SCARLET WITCH...
...THE TEAM NEW YORKERS HAVE TAKEN TO CALLING "EARTH'S MIGHTIEST PRETENDERS."
WITH ME TONIGHT TO DISCUSS THE AVENGERS ARE...
...CITY COUNCILMAN CHARLES OLIVETTI AND SOCIOLOGIST BETTE CANFORD.
ALWAYS A PLEASURE, BETTE.
LET'S DIVE IN. HUGH, CAN WE CUT TO YOUR FIELD REPORTER FOR A MOMENT?
HUGH, WE'VE BEEN ROVING MANHATTAN TO GET SOME CANDID REACTIONS TO THE NEW AVENGERS:
MMMTV
THOR? HE COULD PUT OUT A THREE-ALARMER WITH A WAVE OF THAT HAMMER.
WHERE'S HE?
MMMTV
ROOKIES, MOST OF 'EM. NO POWER.
I LOVE CAP, BUT THE OTHER THREE...
ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS THAT WE AT COUNTY GENERAL PRAY THAT THOSE FOUR DON'T HAVE TO HANDLE ANYTHING BIG.
AND LIVE WITH A CROWD OF PROTESTERS...
Hi MOM
AVENGERS? I DONT THINK SO
EX-CONVICTS NOT AVENGERS
MIGHTY PRETENDERS NO THANKS
MMMTV
...WELL, THEY SEEM ADAMANT THAT IF THE AVENGERS CAN'T PROTECT OUR CITY, THEY SHOULD LEAVE IT.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SIR?
IT'S JIM BROWWWW--!
TONK!
WHAT THE--?
HEH. I DIDN'T REALIZE IT WAS CHRISTMAS, LUCY!
LOOKS LIKE SANTA'S DROPPING TOYS!
SOMETHING'S... WRONG HERE, HUGH. DOZENS AND DOZENS OF THESE DOLLS ARE FALLING OUT OF A CLEAR BLUE SKY!
TOYS, OR...?
AAAAHH!
THEY'RE ALIVE!
YOU'RE BURYING THE LEDE!
THEY'RE NOT ONLY ALIVE--THEY'RE REPRODUCING!
FOLKS, IF YOU'RE IN THAT AREA, YOU MIGHT WANT TO STAY IN YOUR HOMES UNTIL THE AUTHORITIES CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S GOING ON!
LUCY? LUCY, ARE YOU THERE?
I DON'T LIKE THEM AIRING THIS! NEW YORK'S A SAFE CITY!
PICTURES DON'T LIE, CHARLES!
IT SEEMS WE'VE LOST LUCY, SO WE'LL--
--SILENCE YOURSELVES AND GIVE ME THE STAGE!

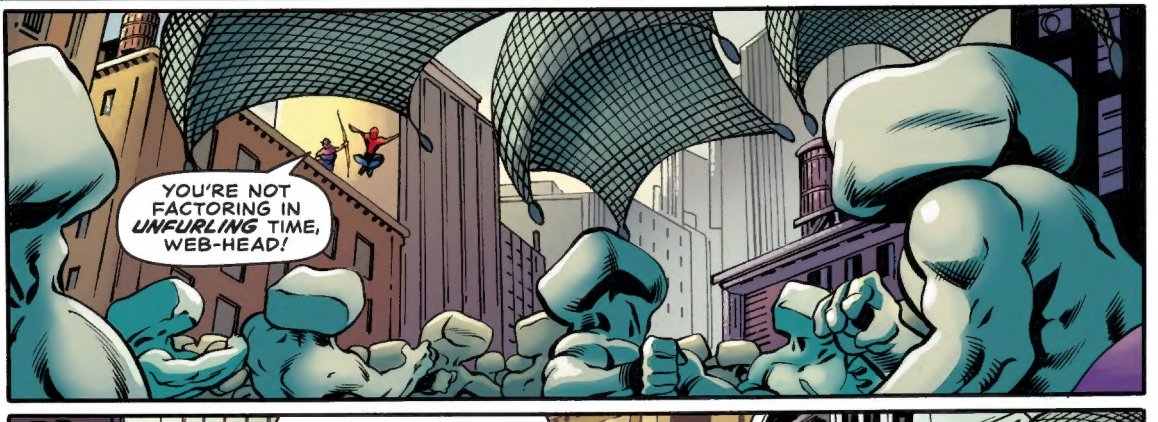
ATTENTION, NEW YORKERS--
--ALL 7,927,285 OF YOU.
FOR THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH ME, I AM THE THINKER. I AM THE SOURCE OF THESE GRAY VERMIN, MINIATURE REPLICAS OF MY AWESOME ANDROID.
LIVE
IN CASE YOU WERE EVER CURIOUS, AT A RATIO OF 1-TO-2.879, I CALCULATE THE NUMBER OF RATS IN MANHATTAN AT 22,822,654.
WITHIN FOUR HOURS, AT THEIR CURRENT RATE OF DUPLICATION, MY MINI-ANDROIDS WILL EXCEED THE RAT POPULATION BY 522.4%--
--UNLESS I AM PAID EXACTLY ONE BILLION DOLLARS' WORTH OF VIBRANIUM BY MIDNIGHT!
SADLY, I PREDICT THE CITY WILL PAY MY RANSOM 62 MINUTES LATE, RESULTING IN THE UNNECESSARY LOSS OF 382 LIVES AND $426.9M IN DAMAGE.
MOST OF YOUR COSTUMED HEROES, SUCH AS SPIDER-MAN AND DAREDEVIL, WILL BE TOO BUSY RESCUING INNOCENTS TO STOP ME.
ONLY THE NEW, DEVALUED AVENGERS CAN COME CLOSE TO OPPOSING ME... AND BASED ON THEIR DEMONSTRATED POWER LEVELS, THEIR CHANCE OF SUCCESS RESTS AT 2.9%!

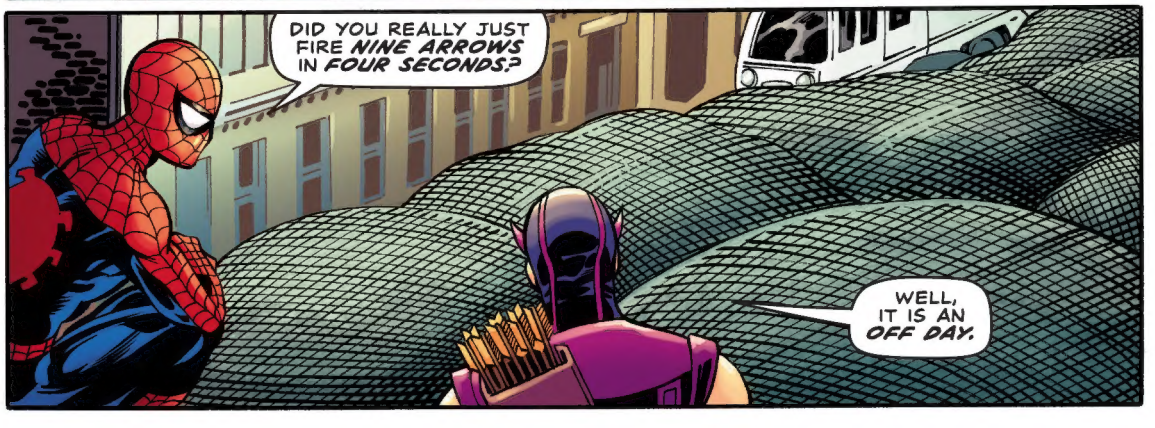
SP-TANG!
!
THESE WALLS ARE SIX INCHES THICK--!
SO IS YOUR SKULL, THINKER, IF YOU BELIEVE WE'RE NOT A THREAT.
WANDA, DO YOUR HEX MAGIC.
ALL--ALL MY EQUIPMENT--!
THERE'LL BE NO MORE REPLICATION!
ANDROID!
KILL THE AVENGERS!


FAT CHANCE!
FWAM!
THEIR POWER LEVELS HAVE INCREASED BY A FACTOR OF AT LEAST 10.7--
--THANKS TO AN X-FACTOR I'D NOT ACCOUNTED FOR!
WHAT IS THAT X-FACTOR?
THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
I'M ABOUT TO DROWN IN--
?
HAMLET
DID THEY VANISH...?
NO! MY RADAR-SENSE TELLS ANOTHER STORY!
IT'S QUICKSILVER-- ROUNDING THEM UP AT NEAR-INVISIBLE SUPER-SPEED!

OH, FOR A GIANT CAN OF RAID--!
GET CLEAR, SPIDER-MAN!

HEY!
YOU'RE THAT HAWKEYE GUY!
HEY, WILLIAM TELL-- YOUR AIM'S OFF! THE ANDROIDS ARE DOWN THERE, NOT FOUR FLIGHTS UP!

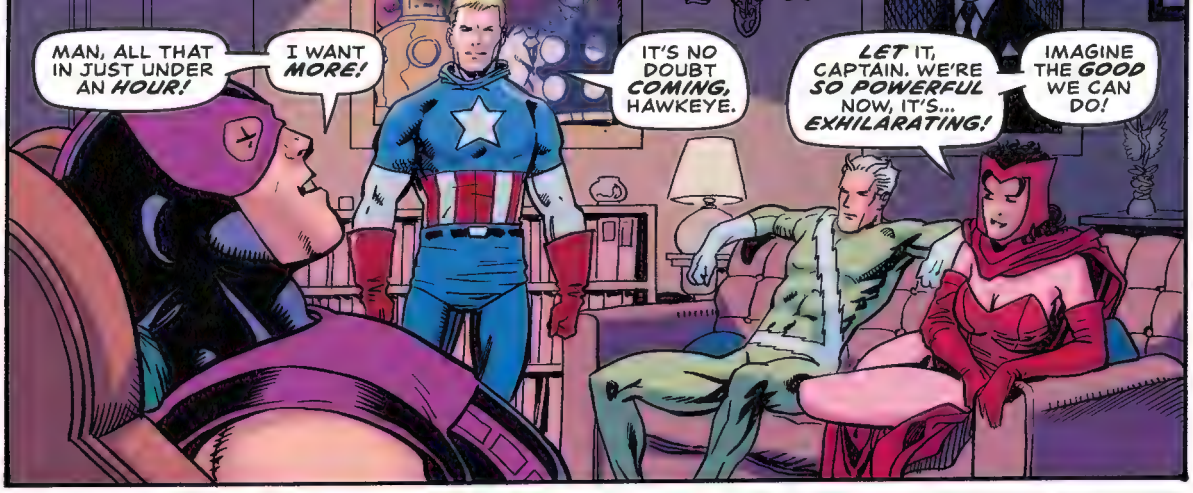

YOU'RE NOT FACTORING IN UNFURLING TIME, WEB-HEAD!


DID YOU REALLY JUST FIRE NINE ARROWS IN FOUR SECONDS?
WELL, IT IS AN OFF DAY.

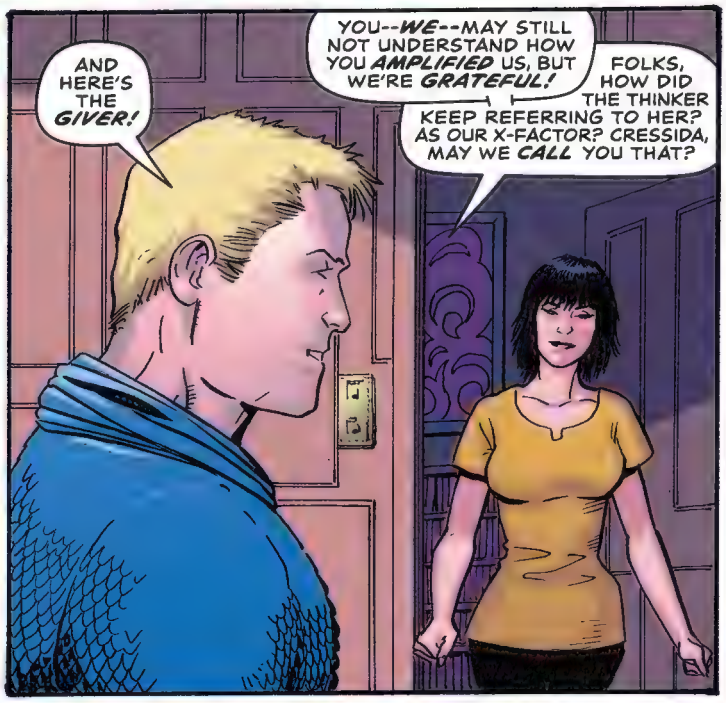
WANDA! CAN YOU--
THINKER'S CAULDRON? IT'S UNDER MY CONTROL!
IT GIVES LIFE TO THE ANDROIDS, BUT A SIMPLE HEX, AND...
ASTOUNDING! LUCY, CAN YOU GIVE US AN UPDATE?

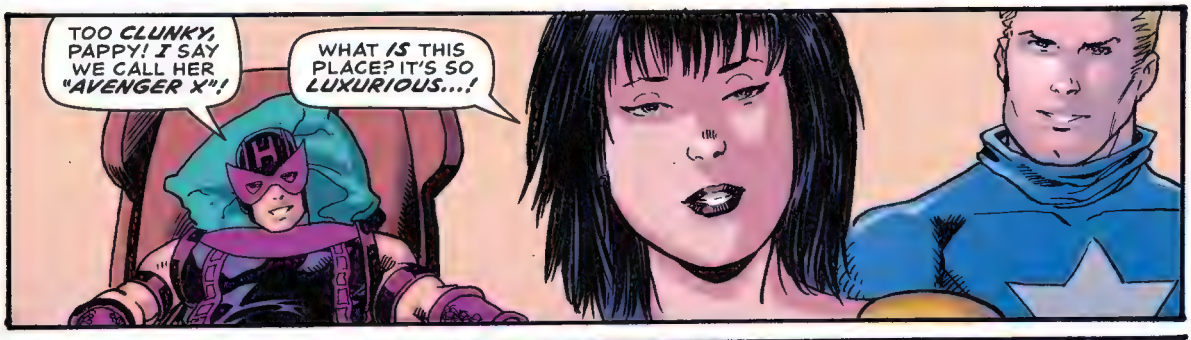
HUGH, THESE TINY FIGURES SIMPLY SHUT DOWN ALL AT ONCE!
IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE THE CITY IS SAFE AGAIN...

...AND, CLEARLY, WE'VE PERHAPS JUDGED THESE FOUR HEROES FAR TOO HARSHLY!
LUCY, GIVE US A READ ON THE CROWD OUTSIDE THE THINKER'S HEADQUARTERS!
HUGH, THE CONSENSUS IS CLEAR.
THE NEW AVENGERS ARE MIGHTIER THAN EVER... AND NEW YORK LOVES THEM!
SHOW SOME ENTHUSIASM, GRAMPA!
SOME OF US AREN'T IN IT FOR THE SPOTLIGHT, HAWKEYE!
YOU OUGHTA TRY IT SOMETIME, WINGHEAD! IT FEELS AWESOME!

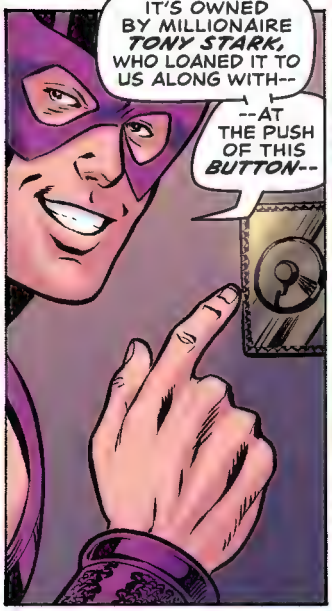

MAN, ALL THAT IN JUST UNDER AN HOUR!
I WANT MORE!
IT'S NO DOUBT COMING, HAWKEYE.
LET IT, CAPTAIN. WE'RE SO POWERFUL NOW, IT'S... EXHILARATING!
IMAGINE THE GOOD WE CAN DO!

THERE WON'T BE ANY MORE SNIPING FROM THE PRESS...
...NO ONE ACCUSING PIETRO AND ME OF BEING TERRORISTS! SUCH A GIFT!


AND HERE'S THE GIVER!
YOU--WE--MAY STILL NOT UNDERSTAND HOW YOU AMPLIFIED US, BUT WE'RE GRATEFUL!
FOLKS, HOW DID THE THINKER KEEP REFERRING TO HER? AS OUR X-FACTOR? CRESSIDA, MAY WE CALL YOU THAT?


TOO CLUNKY, PAPPY! I SAY WE CALL HER "AVENGER X"!
WHAT IS THIS PLACE? IT'S SO LUXURIOUS...!

THIS, LITTLE LADY, IS YOUR NEW HOME!
I CALL IT "HAWKEYE'S CANDY STORE"!
WE CALL IT "AVENGERS MANSION."


IT'S OWNED BY MILLIONAIRE TONY STARK, WHO LOANED IT TO US ALONG WITH--
--AT THE PUSH OF THIS BUTTON--

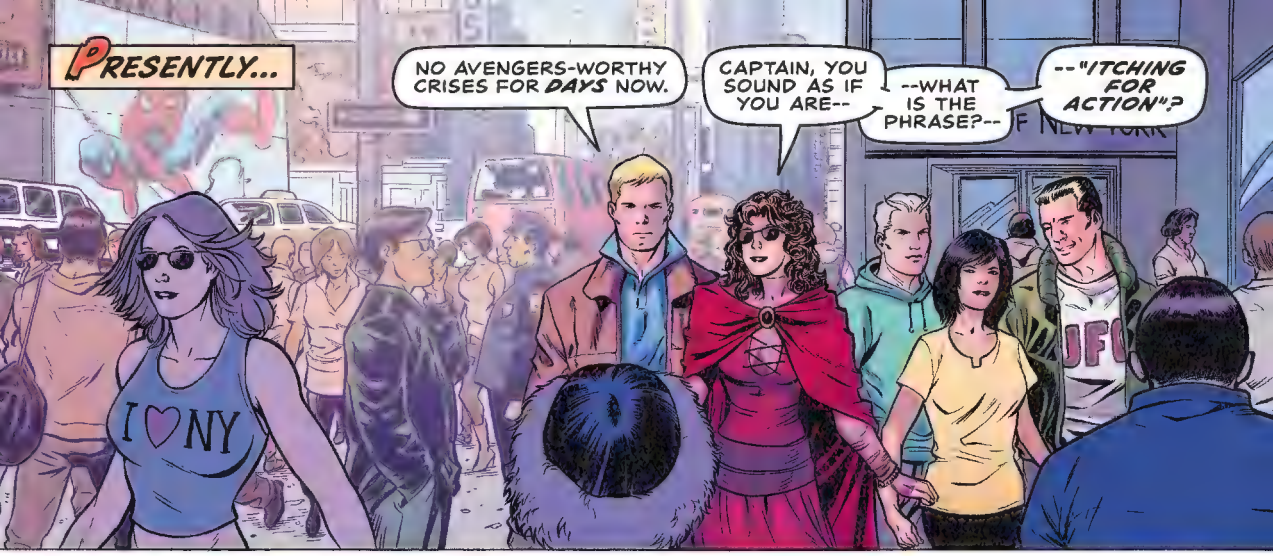
--OUR VERY OWN BUTLER!
WHAT IS A BUTLER?
WATCH.

HEY, JARVIS! IN A CONTAINER UNDER MY BED, YOU'LL FIND ABOUT FIFTY BOWSTRINGS.
AND...?

I'M GOING TO NEED THOSE CLEANED AND WAXED.
SEE, CRESSIDA? THAT'S A BUTLER!

WHAT?

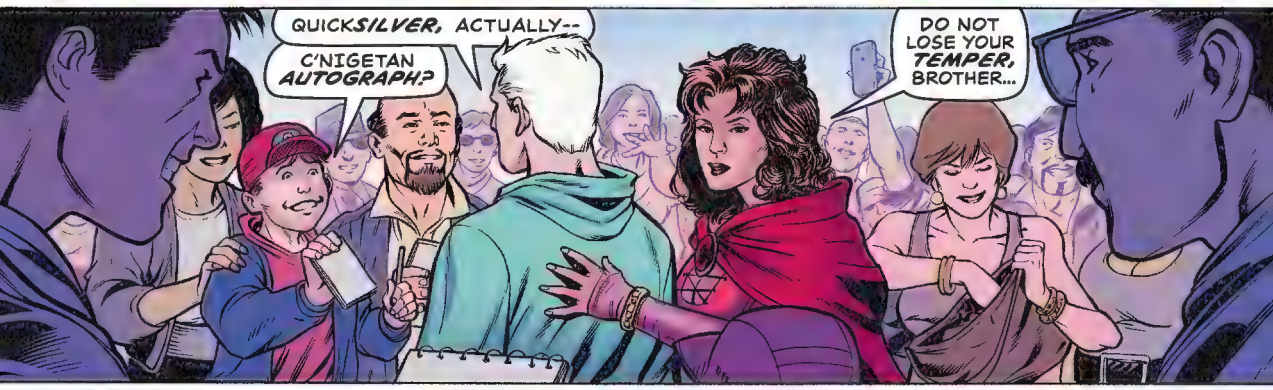
MEANWHILE, IN QUEENS...
AIIIEEEEEEEEEE
AW, JEEZ. JEEZ! BARNEY, YOU HEAR SCREAMING? COME ON!
Sunshine Nursing
MA'AM, ARE YOU IN CHARGE? WE GOT A CALL--
I CALLED! DO SOMETHING! THEY'RE GONE!
THEY'RE ALL GONE!
YOU MEAN THE PATIENTS LEFT THE GROUNDS--?
NO!
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND!
THEY-- THEY--
--ABOUT THIRTY MINUTES AGO, AT THE EXACT SAME MOMENT...
...EVERY SINGLE PATIENT HERE DIED!

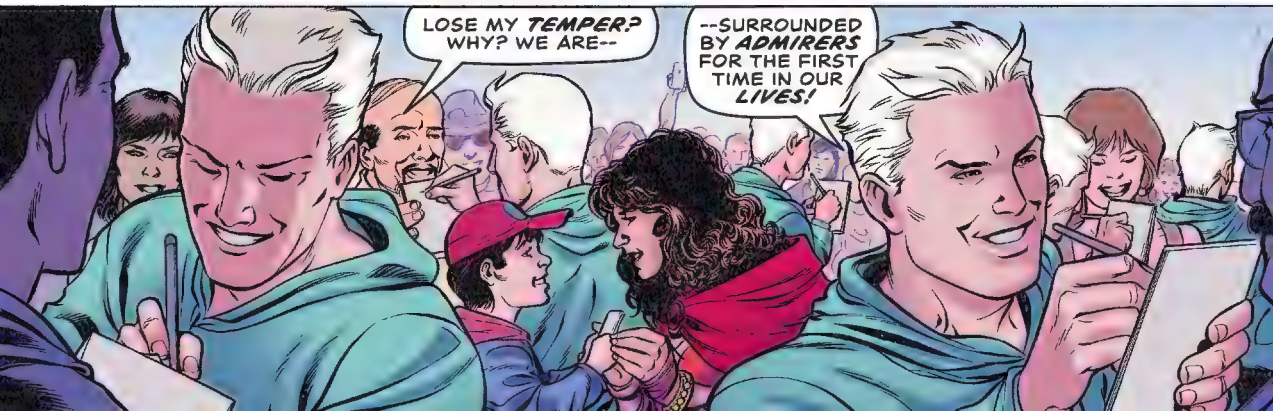

PRESENTLY...
NO AVENGERS-WORTHY CRISES FOR DAYS NOW.
CAPTAIN, YOU SOUND AS IF YOU ARE--
--WHAT IS THE PHRASE?--
--"ITCHING FOR ACTION"?
I ♥ NY

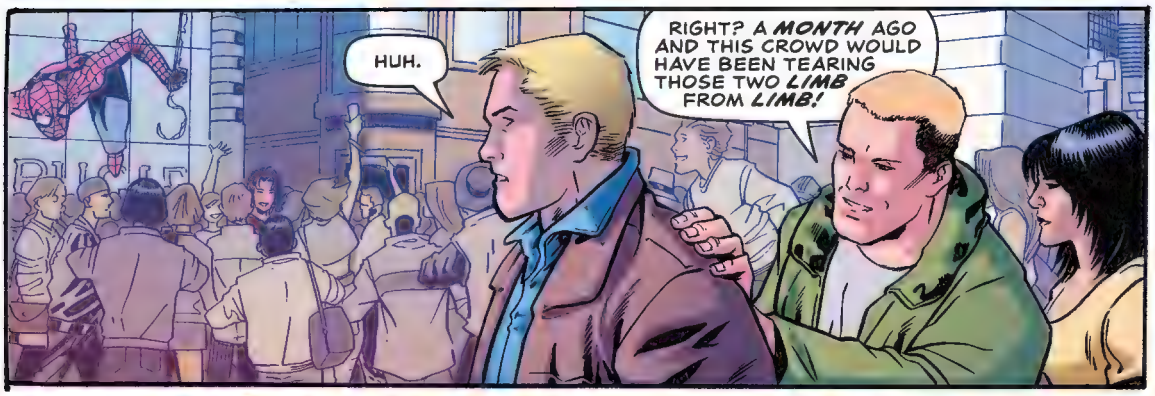
MAYBE A LITTLE, WANDA. I'M NOT GOOD AT FURLOUGHS.
THEN SPEND SOME OF THAT ENERGY INTRODUCING "AVENGER X" HERE TO THE WORLD!
SHE'S OUR REAL MVP! WHERE'D WE BE WITHOUT HER POWER-UPS?

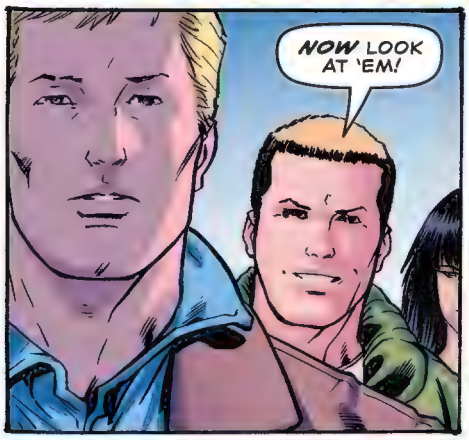
ASSOCIATING HER WITH US PAINTS A TARGET ON CRESSIDA'S BACK, HAWKEYE. YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ABOUT TARGETS.
I DO WISH SHE COULD SHARE IN THE GLORY, BUT--

THAT'S HIM!
IT'S QUICKMAN!


QUICKSILVER, ACTUALLY--
C'NIGETAN AUTOGRAPH?
DO NOT LOSE YOUR TEMPER, BROTHER...


LOSE MY TEMPER? WHY? WE ARE--
--SURROUNDED BY ADMIRERS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OUR LIVES!


HUH.
RIGHT? A MONTH AGO AND THIS CROWD WOULD HAVE BEEN TEARING THOSE TWO LIMB FROM LIMB!


NOW LOOK AT 'EM!

WANDA'S A ROCK STAR...

...AND PIETRO'S GOT A FAN CLUB!

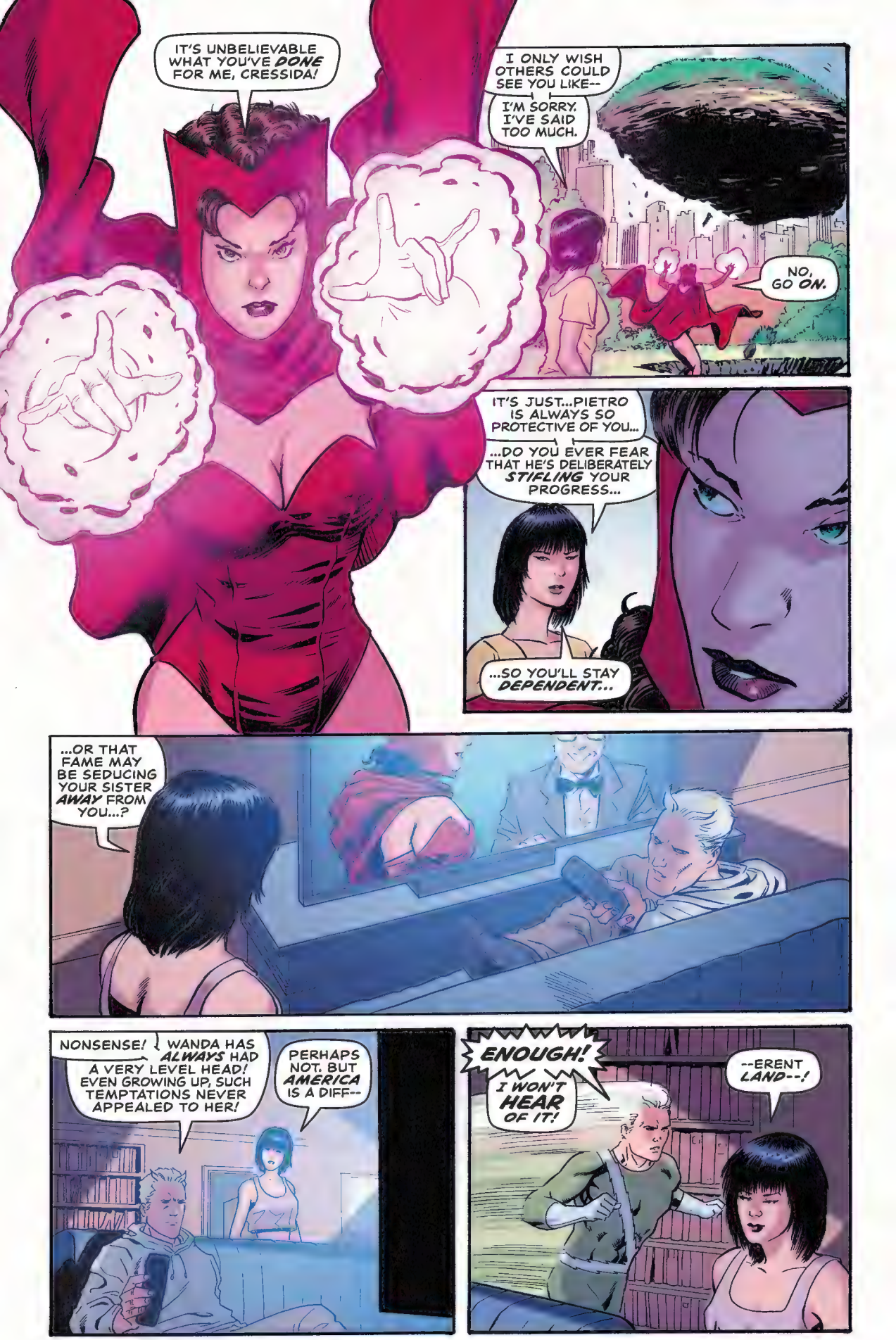
WHERE ARE YOU TWO GOING?
THINK, MR. CREAKY-JOINTS! IF WE DON'T KEEP OUR DISTANCE FROM THOSE TWO, PEOPLE ARE GONNA FIGURE OUT OUR SECRET IDENTITIES.
LATER!

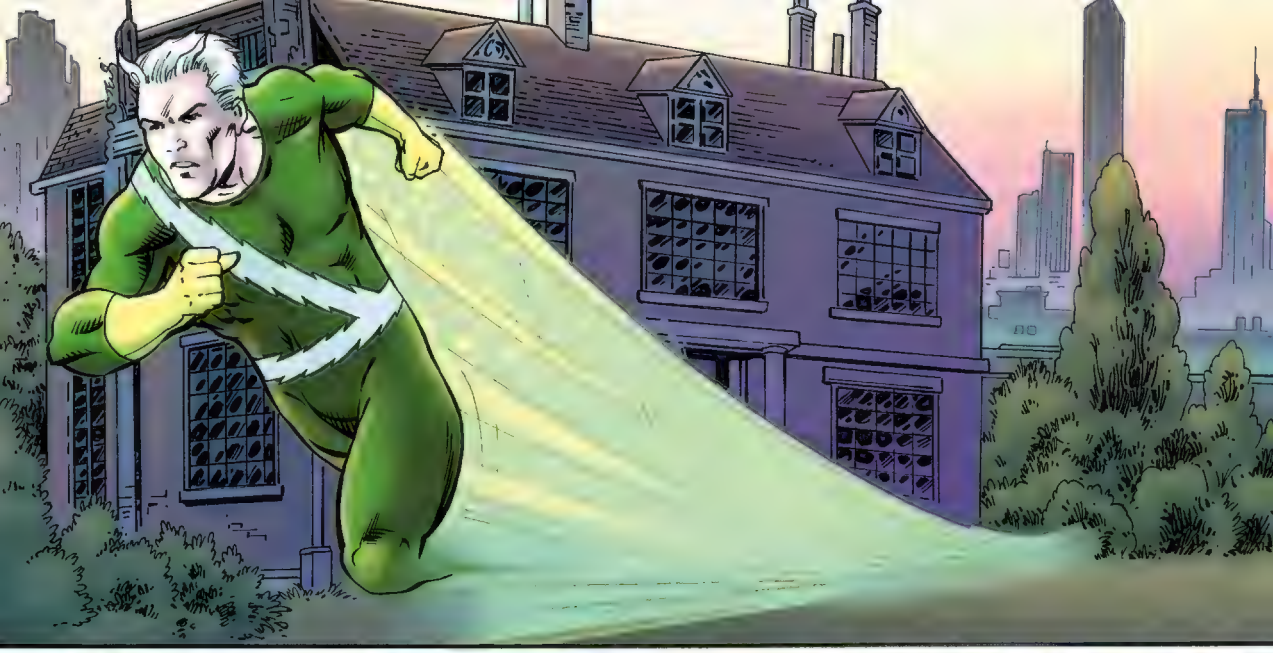
HE SEEMS ACCUSTOMED TO GIVING ORDERS.
WHO, CAP? YOU'VE NOTICED, HAVE YOU?

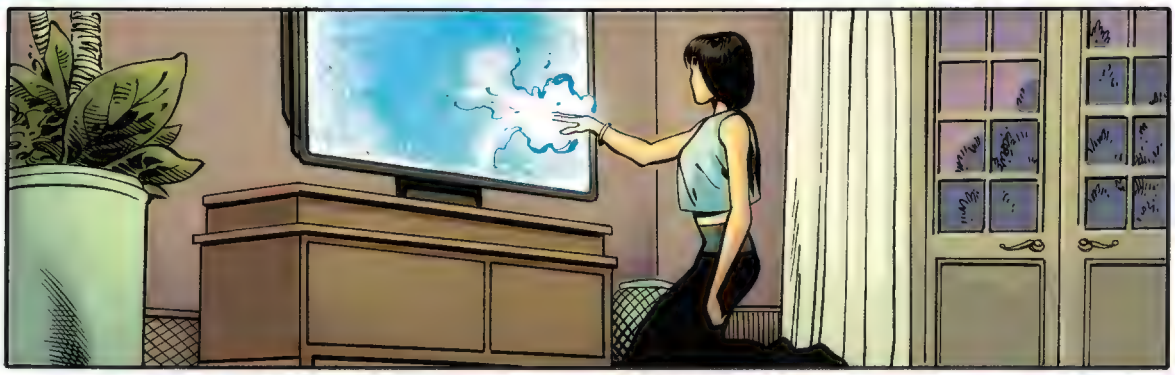
IN MY VILLAGE, THE ROLE OF LEADER FELL NOT TO THE ELDEST, BUT RATHER TO THE MOST CLEVER. IS IT NOT THAT WAY HERE?

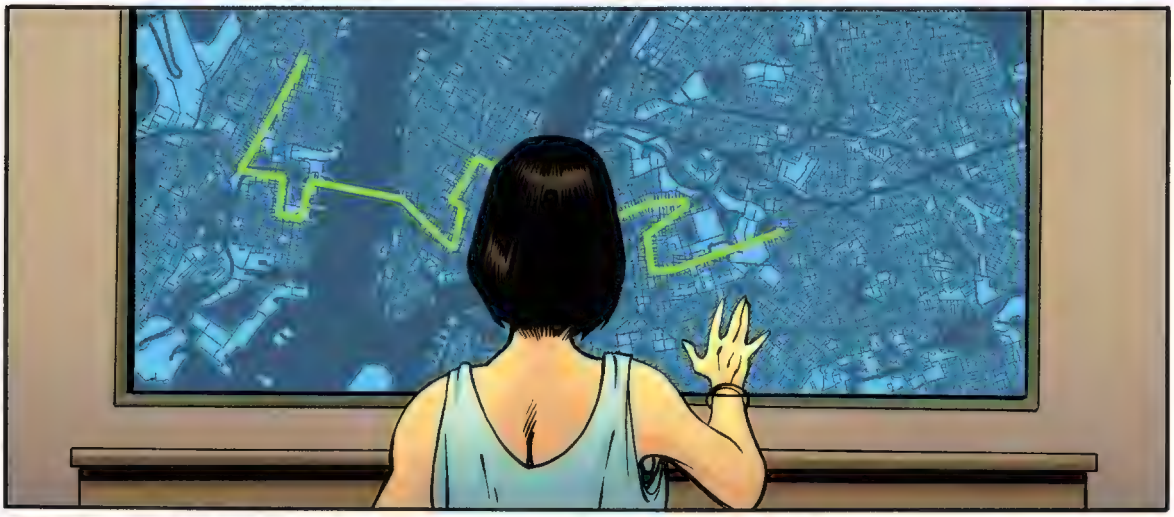
FOOD FOR THOUGHT.
SO LET'S GO EAT.

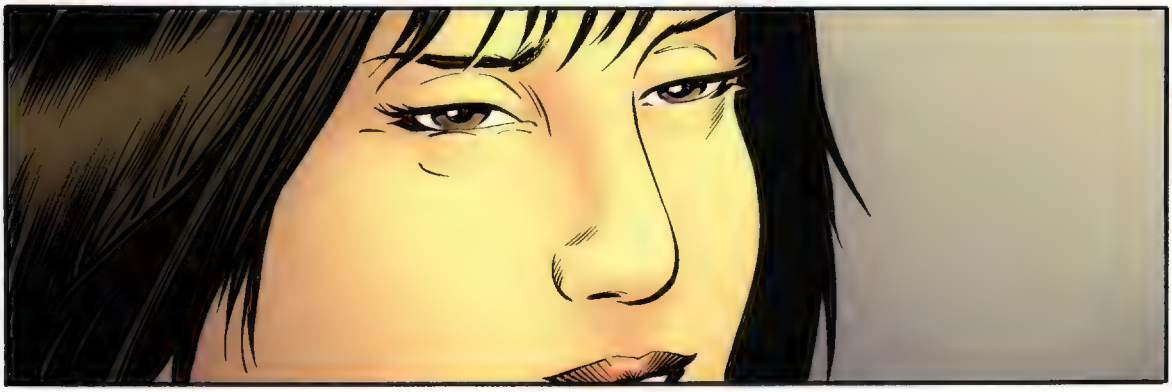
LATER...
CAP?
CRESSIDA? I'M SURPRISED TO SEE YOU.
THAT SENTENCE SEEMS TO HAVE HIT THE WRONG NOTE. IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT?
WELL? AVENGER X, WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME TEAM. OUT WITH IT.
I ASSUMED YOU'D BE OUT WITH HAWKEYE THE REST OF THE DAY.
I...I'VE BEEN READING ABOUT HAWKEYE'S PAST AS BEST I CAN, AND I...
...IT'S JUST THAT, IN MY VILLAGE, PEOPLE TEND NOT TO CHANGE. THEY JUST GET MORE THE SAME.
DO YOU SUPPOSE, AT HEART...HAWKEYE'S STILL A CRIMINAL?
CRESS, AS AN AVENGER, HE HAS MY BACK. YOURS AS WELL.
I'D JUST...HATE TO SEE HIM ENDANGER THAT TRUST.
...
ME, TOO.

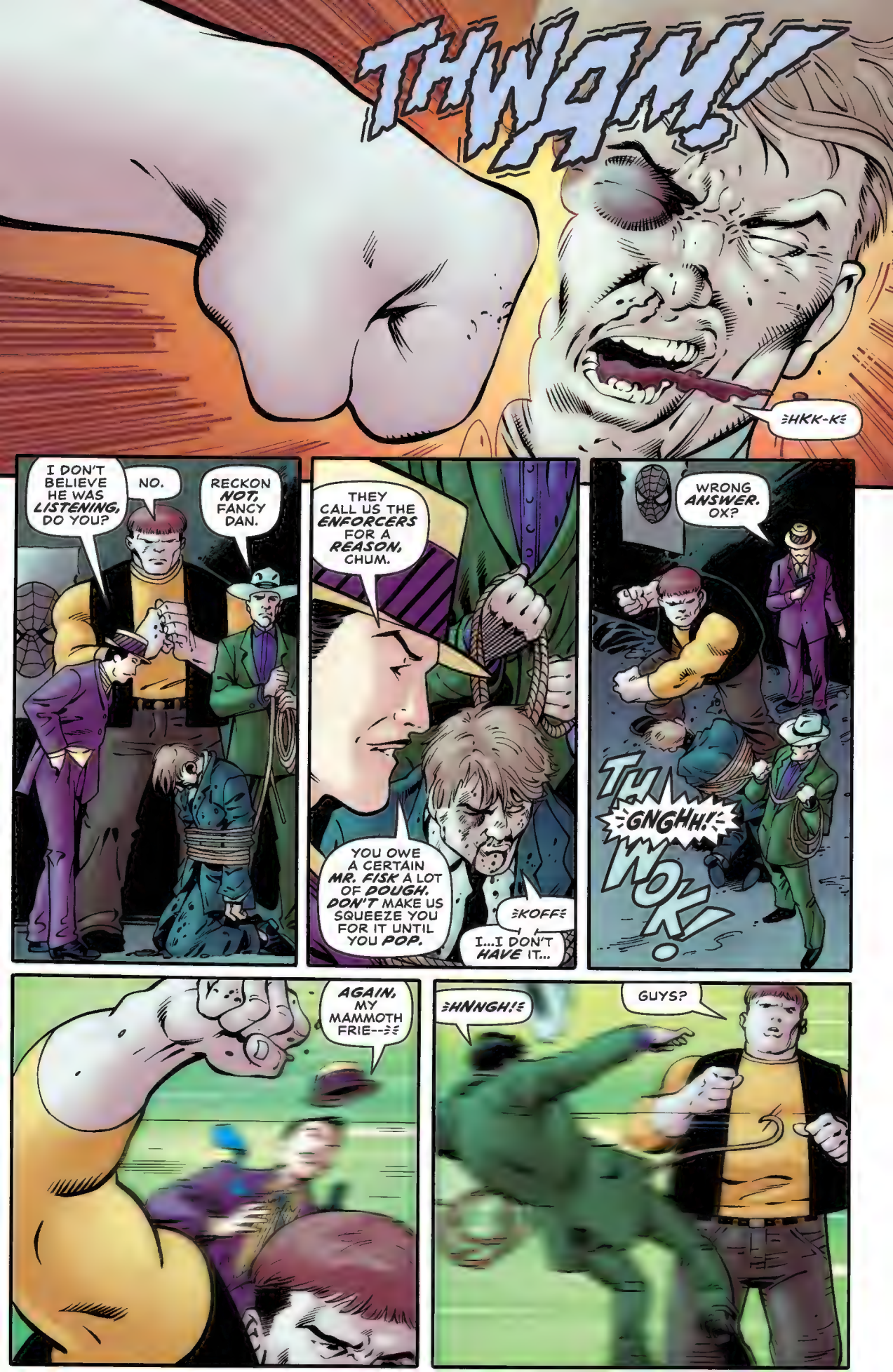

IT'S UNBELIEVABLE WHAT YOU'VE DONE FOR ME, CRESSIDA!
I ONLY WISH OTHERS COULD SEE YOU LIKE--
I'M SORRY. I'VE SAID TOO MUCH.
NO, GO ON.
IT'S JUST...PIETRO IS ALWAYS SO PROTECTIVE OF YOU...
...DO YOU EVER FEAR THAT HE'S DELIBERATELY STIFLING YOUR PROGRESS...
...SO YOU'LL STAY DEPENDENT...
...OR THAT FAME MAY BE SEDUCING YOUR SISTER AWAY FROM YOU...?
NONSENSE! WANDA HAS ALWAYS HAD A VERY LEVEL HEAD! EVEN GROWING UP, SUCH TEMPTATIONS NEVER APPEALED TO HER!
PERHAPS NOT. BUT AMERICA IS A DIFF--
ENOUGH!
I WON'T HEAR OF IT!
--ERENT LAND--!










THWAM!
HKK-K
I DON'T BELIEVE HE WAS LISTENING, DO YOU?
NO.
RECKON NOT, FANCY DAN.
THEY CALL US THE ENFORCERS FOR A REASON, CHUM.
YOU OWE A CERTAIN MR. FISK A LOT OF DOUGH. DON'T MAKE US SQUEEZE YOU FOR IT UNTIL YOU POP.
KOFF
I...I DON'T HAVE IT...
WRONG ANSWER. OK?
TH
GNGHH!
WOK!
AGAIN, MY MAMMOTH FRIE--
HNNGH!
GUYS?

NONE OF YOU WILL BE BRUTALIZING ANYONE AGAIN ANYTIME SOON!
OH, NO...?
SEE HOW
IT FEELS
YOU LUMBERING
BEHEMOTH!
HEH.
UNGHH!
FWOW!

N-NO--!
I'M-- TOO FAST-- FOR YOU--!
YEAH?
DON'T LOOK LIKE IT!
DOCTOR!
HEALT
FOUND
HOSP
HOSPITA
IT'S MR. REYNOLDS!
OH, LORD... HIM, TOO! ALL OVER THIS HOSPITAL--
--PERFECTLY HEALTHY PATIENTS ARE DROPPING DEAD FOR SOME REASON!
IT'S AS IF ALL THE ENERGY'S BEING DRAINED OUT OF THEM, BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
"WHERE WOULD IT EVEN GO?!"

TIRED OF YOU.
THWOK!
YOU THINK YOU'RE BETTER'N ME?
WELL, LES' SEE HOW QUICK YOU ARE NOW!
AIIEEE!
KROK!
NONONO
NYAAA--
SWAP!
ONE DOWN... THREE TO GO.
NEXT: DIVIDED THEY FALL!

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE!

RUSH YOUR COMMENTS TO: MHEROES@MARVEL.COM MARKED OKAY TO PRINT"!

Dear Stan and Don,

AVENGERS #17 was only #9 this month in the order of my idea of how good all your issues were. The reason was mainly because you've completely changed the personalities of Wanda, Pietro and Hawkeye (what's his real name?). Last month I thought the Avengers were more unique, but they're not. They are still making corny Iron Man-type wisecracks. But, believe it or not, I like the new Avengers better than the old! I think you should form a new group—all girls, too! You could introduce them in another mag. When are Spidey, Dr. Strange, or Daredevil going to join the Avengers, if ever??

Doug Jones, 3 Brookwood St.
East Orange, N. J.

Your guess is as good as ours, Doug—in fact, its probably better! As for ol' Arrow-head's real name, we don't remember ever mentioning it, so we'll generously award a portable, solid state, decorator approved no-prize to the frantic fan who comes up with the best monicker for him! Okay?

Dear Stan and Don,

I've just finished AVENGERS #17 and I'm going to react. The story was not the type I would expect from Marvel. The Scarlet Witch tends to cramp the others' styles, because she can do anything and everything the others can't do. Wanda's hex powers can end a battle before it even starts. I think you should drop Wanda—if that's possible without losing Quicksilver. You should leave the Hulk out, but try bringing back Wonder Man. You should try a battle with Namor. I won't say "keep up the good work" as I have before, because the best thing to say is "step up the good work!"

David Funnell, 3926 New York Ave.
Fair Oaks, Calif.

We can't bring Wonder Man back—but we did the next best thing, Davey—we gave you Power Man! We hope you like him, because we're running out of names that end in "man"! As for dropping Wanda, that's not up to *us!* It depends on the volume of mail we receive in answer to your unexpected suggestion. But, we're willing to guess that you'll be heavily out-voted! (By the beauty-lovin' gang in the bullpen, anyway!)

—By now, practically all of you are mirthful Merry Marchers, all resplendent in your colorful Marvel T-shirts and writing up a storm with your swingin' Marvel stationery! But, if you've been wondering what little goodies we're gonna come up with for you *next*, be of stout heart! We're working on a zillion new gimmicks, and as soon as we get them ironed out, you'll see that the House of Ideas hasn't lost its Marvel-ous touch! (Imagine what we'd say if we were the boastful type!)

Dear Stan and Don,

You have recently made one change which I would like to see changed back, namely the apparent retirement of Giant Man and the Wasp. Their series, despite its handicap of shorter page lengths, was one of my favorites. The relationship between Giant Man and the Wasp was unique, giving the whole series a lively and very entertaining flavor. Please try to find a spot for them—they were good in the Avengers, but they were much better on their own. Incidentally, speaking of the Avengers, here is another series which has made changes, and I think good ones. Captain America has always been very effective in the Avengers, much more so than in his own series, and if there was to be only one holdover in a new Avengers, he was the perfect choice. Also, I was glad to see the rehabilitation of Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch while Hawkeye also seems promising. I even noticed a hint of romantic feeling for Captain America by the Scarlet Witch. This might be a good item to develop along with friendly rivalry among the other members with Wanda as the usual peacemaker when one is required. However, Captain America should always remain the official leader.

C. H. Cooke, Jr., 426 Huron Ave.
Cambridge, Mass.

We kinda think so too, Cookey—but try telling that to *Hawkeye!* As for High-Pockets and jaunty Jan—all we can say at this time is that they're still very much alive and kicking, and as soon as we can find the proper vehicle for them—and the right time to re-introduce them—look out!

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line-Up Of Some Of The Marvel-ous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #44: The one you've been waiting for! The first tale ever told of the F.F. after Reed and Sue are married! With a brand-new super-villain, all-new problems, and the return of—aw, why say more? It's the greatest yet!

SPIDER-MAN #30: You'll get a kick out of this one! It's another action-packed cops 'n robbers tale, featuring a larcenous low-life named The Cat—and a web-spinnin' wonder named Spidey! What more can you want?

X-MEN #13: Of all the super-villains since time immemorial, possibly none have ever equalled the Juggernaut in sheer power or stark savagery! And now, he faces the seemingly helpless X-men!

DAREDEVIL #10: A real collector's item! On a dare, Stan let Wally Wood write this one, and it's the most off-beat mystery in years! Wait'll you see the far-out super-villains and the panicky plot twists! Sure to be talked-about everywhere!

THOR #121: Possibly the greatest action scenes of all! You'll never forget the staggering battle between Thor and the Absorbing Man! It's King Kirby at his powerful best, revealing all the power and majesty of the God of Thunder!

STRANGE TALES #138: We don't want to say too much about Nick Fury, Agent of Shield, because this mag has been selling so fast that we can't print enough copies each month! So, we'll tell you that the Dr. Strange yarn is entitled: "If Eternity Should Fail!"—and it'll STILL sell-out!

SUSPENSE #71: You must not miss Iron Man's greatest triumph! It's the most heart-warming, satisfying conclusion we've ever presented! As for Captain America, George Tuska's artwork will leave you breathless! We kid you not!

ASTONISH #73: Who says lightning doesn't strike twice? The Sub-Mariner has become as big a hit as Agent of Shield! And wait'll you see what happens to poor Dorma in this ish! As for the Hulk, if sending him to another planet doesn't whet your appetite, we give up!

SGT. FURY #23: Another Marvel first! Fury fights in Burma—while you learn the secret of Percy Pinkerton's past for the first time! (And you'll never forget the gentle, courageous Sister Theresa!) An unusually powerful epic!

Dear Stan and Don,

You've probably made the worst mistake in magazine history. I refer to the credits panel of AVENGERS #18 where you said that it was "stoically read by (me)." Well, I sat down to stoically read it, and by page 14, where the Avengers met the Commissar, I had to send out for an oxygen tent. Man, such excitement, such action, such—

such—my vocabulary is inadequate to describe it! Some little touches really made AVENGERS #18 my favorite mag ever—the personality development of Pietro and Wanda, the slight change in the Scarlet Witch's costume, Captain America's frustration (unusual in a comic book hero), Quicksilver's quip in the last panel, and, finally, that look at Hawkeye sans helmet. Boy, I wish I were that handsome!

John Taylor, 3037 Getty
Kansas City, Kansas

As far as we're concerned, Johnny, nobody is handsomer than the living dolls who plunk down 12¢ for one of our minor masterpieces! Besides, who *wouldn't* look handsome when drawn by Dashing Donnie Heck!

Dear Stan and Don,

Well, that impeccable paragon of perfection, Mighty Marvel, has done it again! I'm referring to AVENGERS #17 and the first action story featuring the "new" Avengers. I was extremely glad to see a normal sized female super-character in action. The Scarlet Witch's costume is perfect, especially that unique headpiece! The amazing Quicksilver has an unusual appearance—white hair even! And, as a matter of fact, his sister's hair is an unusual color also . . . dark gray! I believe I have uncovered another Marvel "first," namely the fact that both the Scarlet Witch and Quicksilver come from Europe. Many mags feature super-villains from other countries, but now Marvel has introduced foreign super-heroes.

Jimmy Morton, 709 13th St.
Pascagoula, Miss.

There's a method to our madness, Jim. If ever we want to get rid of them, we can have 'em deported for passport violations!

—We've mentioned it so often, we just can't go into detail about it again, but we do want to remind you that all our adorable ANNUALS are now on sale! They include: The frankly fabulous FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL blockbuster—the SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL knockout—the THOR ANNUAL epic—the SGT. FURY ANNUAL ring-a-ding-aroo—and the MARVEL TALES ANNUAL lollapalooza! We won't mention the MILLIE THE MODEL ANNUAL, because we don't think you'll be too interested! (Who *says* we can't write with restraint!)

Dear Stan and Don,

I have stopped in the middle of your letters page to write my first letter to any magazine. I, too, like to hear other people's opinions. Many have good suggestions and good complaints. But (which is why I am writing to you) it is so childish for any one to threaten not to buy your magazines because you did—or didn't—do—or don't—. Anyway, there are some stories we may feel you could have done better with, but other readers may feel they are great. So instead of rushing a complaining letter to you, which would really get us nowhere, we forget it and start fresh with the next issue. In my opinion, you do a fine job. Putting out so many magazines in a limited amount of time and yet not having a banged-up mess deserves only appreciative readers. A better job couldn't be done if you dedicated your time and skill to just one magazine. I just wanted to let you know there is someone else who appreciates those who try to satisfy everyone at least 90% of the time. We are satisfied 98% of the time.

Sandy Guillot c/o SP5 M. H. Guillot, Intel. Div.
Hq. USAREUR, APO 403, New York, N. Y.

Sandy, ol' boy, you made a couple of ex-G.I.'s feel like a million bucks with your flattering letter! We won't pretend we didn't enjoy it. (Now, if we could only get our boss, Merry Marty Goodman, to read it—!)

Dear Stan and Don,

Wow! AVENGERS #17 was excellent. You really outdid yourselves in this issue. I must compliment Don on his great art, and good old Stan on a wonderful story. Dick's inking was excellent, and Sam did an outstanding job on the lettering. The result of all this fine work has resulted in one of Marvel's greatest achievements since the "Marvel Age" has started. Whoever did the cover of #17 certainly deserves a round of applause, because it happens to be one of the most action-packed covers ever done by you or any one else! Now I will give a brief summary on the characters, starting with Captain America. His role was excellent as a leader and I think he should keep this position until the New Avengers are better established because he has had the most experience in battle. Hawkeye's role was also superb, but his disposition is something which may bring trouble among the Avengers, so let's not make him too swellheaded. I know he's still young at crime-fighting and hasn't taken orders from anyone, but he should start to, and as soon as possible. Quicksilver's role was marvelous, and I know the Avengers won't have any trouble with him, because he was glad to be needed and not thought of as just a mutant. Scarlet Witch's role was bewitching and she aided the Avengers at their most crucial moments, but she wasn't given enough action (I think), otherwise she was WANDAful! Their baptism of fire was magnificent—I could go on praising this mag, but I have to stop somewhere, so here goes! 'Bye.

John Dennis, 805 N. 10 St.
Reading, Pa.

WANDAful, eh, John? Pretty clever! Poor Stan is running around in circles now, trying to top you—but what can a fella do with a name like Pietro?

Dear Stan and Don,

I have mixed reactions re: your lineup change in the Avengers. I'm glad to see that Hawkeye, Quicksilver and the Scarlet Witch have reformed and joined the group, though naturally I'm a little saddened by the departure of Iron Man, Thor, Giant-Man and the Wasp. But what I don't like is that, despite a couple of sentences to the contrary, the changeover seems a permanent one. I would rather that you had a kind of rotating system or, at least, frequent guest-starring roles by the now departed heroes. It is interesting to note that the Avengers are not now a group of already established characters joined together, as they originally were, but a squad of basically new heroes who had no strip of their own before they joined. Dick's artwork was excellent on this issue but I'm looking forward to Don Heck's return next issue. I must congratulate you on this month's Marvel covers. You cut out all the unnecessary, downgrading, blaring captions, leaving just the title of the story (or stories). This left plenty of room for more cover action. They were all beautiful, especially STRANGE TALES. Please follow this policy in the future.

Mike Friedrich, 17474 Ehle St.
Castro Valley, Calif. 94546

Yes sir! Yes sir! Of course, sir! As for our change being permanent, we're surprised at you, Mike! Haven't you realized yet that nothing's permanent here in our batty bullpen except the fact that we never know what's gonna happen next? The only thing you can be positive of is that Millie the Model won't join the Avengers' roster! (Although, now that we think of it—hmmmm . . .)

—Needless to say, you'll be seeing more of Power-Man next ish (and *how!*), as well as all our other cavortin' characters. Can the Avengers find a way to redeem themselves? Can they strike back against almost insurmountable odds? Can they wrest victory from the ashes of defeat? Can they? Just you watch! Keep your 12¢ in a safe place, friend, because when the dulcet strains of AVENGERS, ASSEMBLE ring out thru the land, we want you to join the ranks, hear? So, till then, keep well, keep happy, and keep away from the Enchantress! Power Man saw her first!

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Hi Gang! Let's face it, I'm a Marvel Madman too! Here's my hard earned buck! Rush all your nutty gizmos to . . .

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